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Dated: 4/8/04

Signature: Kathryn L. Nash

(Kathryn L. Nash)

Docket No.: 65937-0037
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Joseph L. Mark et al.

Application No.: 10/649,068

Confirmation No.: 4645

Filed: August 27, 2003

Art Unit: 3763

For: INTRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL
INSTRUMENTS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, Applicant(s) hereby make of record the following additional documents. A PTO Form SB/08 and a full copy of each of these documents accompany this statement.

Applicant(s) have become aware of the following documents, cited in an International Search Report issued April 2, 2004, during the prosecution of international application no. PCT/US03/26958, which corresponds to the above referenced application, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and (e)(1) or (b)(3), hereby submit(s) these documents for the Examiner's consideration. These documents are cited on the enclosed PTO Form SB/08, and a copy of the International Search Report and each document cited thereon are enclosed as well.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited documents are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any document herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such document is prior art. Moreover, Applicant(s) understand(s) the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited documents.

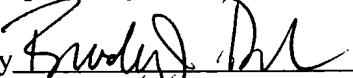
The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Furthermore, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.704(d), Applicant(s) note(s) that to our knowledge this communication was not received by any individual designated in 1.156(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65937-0037. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65937-0037 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 4/8/04

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Bradley J. Diehrich

Registration No.: 47,526

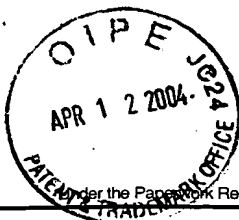
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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/649,068-Conf. #4645
				Filing Date	August 27, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Joseph L. Mark
				Art Unit	3763
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	65937-0037

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-2002/0016544 A1	02-07-2002	Hareyama et al.	
	AB	US-2001/0032649 A1	10-25-2001	Nagano	
	AC	US-2002/0082519 A1	06-27-2002	Miller et al.	
	AD	US-2002/0120212 A1	08-29-2002	Ritchart et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	WO-WO 98/22022-A1	05-29-1998	Werne		
	BB	WO-WO 01/54763-A2	08-02-2001	Guo, et al.		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	CA	International Search Report #PCT/US03/26958 dated 28/08/2003	

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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IDS (Citation) by Applicant